

## NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

### IN EUROPE

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# Vast Krupp Dynasty Weathers Breakups

By the Associated Press

#### Essen, Germany

The Western Allies which once charted the breakup of the vast Krupp empire are finding the 147-year-old dynasty as durable as the steel it produces.

Smashed to near ruin by Allied bombers in World War II and postwar dismantling for reparations, the house of Krupp rose from the rubble to employ some 80,000 workers and do a business of nearly 800 million dollars a year.

Now the Western Big Three, headed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, have agreed to re-examine their trust-busting plans for Krupp and other German industrial barons.

Head of this huge iron, coal, steel complex in the heart of the Ruhr is quiet, reserved Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, great-great-grandson of the company's founder.

Jailed as a war criminal in 1945, Herr Krupp was released seven years ago and returned to his 200-room castle overlooking Essen, still one of Europe's richest men.

#### Loyal Workers

He holds the devotion of thousands of Ruhr citizens, to whom working for Krupp is a way of life. From top management down to mill hands they have staunch loyalty to the firm, fostered by such social benefits as a pension fund begun in 1836, a housing program launched in 1861, and a company hospital started in 1871.

Even before he got out of jail, Herr Krupp's lieutenants had made a start at getting the various sectors of his empire back in operation. Observers credit this team spirit with being a key factor in the firm's overcoming formidable postwar obstacles.

Main hurdle was Allied determination to break up the

vast Krupp complex, which had supplied much of the tools for the German military machine in two world wars.

#### Properties Confiscated

Herr Krupp's properties, confiscated by the United States War Crimes Court, were restored to him when his 12-year jail sentence was cut short in 1951. But under a pact he signed with the Western Big Three in 1952, he was allowed direct control only over steel fabricating and engineering divisions. He agreed to dispose of rich mining properties and his Rheinhausen steel plant—third biggest producer in West Germany—within five years. This would have cut his company in half.

The deadline slipped by this spring, but now the pact is expected to be enforced with leniency, if at all. The Allies promised to think things over after Dr. Adenauer argued that Herr Krupp and his fellow steel magnates were finding it hard to get buyers for their properties.

Krupp experts question the legality of the agreement—made between three sovereign nations and a private citizen of another. They also cite loopholes, such as no provision to prevent Herr Krupp from selling the properties to his own son. The magnate says he wants to avoid any hassle, however, and hopes the allies will not hold him to the bargain, or at least will modify its terms.

To complete his comeback, Herr Krupp plans to take over Bochumer Verein, big Ruhr company which makes the steel castings he has lacked since wartime bombers flattened one-third of his plants.

Purchase of Bochumer would make Herr Krupp once again owner of steel-making facilities extending from mine to finished product. It would restore the heart and balance of the Krupp empire.

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